

SHROPSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION

2024 Annual General Meeting

To all officers and members of the Shropshire Chess Association:

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting will be held at the Unison Club, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6LY on Tuesday 16th July 2024 at 7.30pm.

Please ensure that any trophies held by your club are brought to the AGM for presentation, where required.

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Apologies for absence** **19.30** (5 mins)
2. **Minutes of the 2023 AGM (copies can be viewed online)** **19.35** (5 mins)
3. **President's Report - Matthew Clark** **19.40** (10 mins)
4. **Other Officer's reports. including trophy presentation**

	Officer	Incumbent	Time
a	League Controller	Dan Hilditch-Love	19.50 (5 mins)
b	Rapidplay League Controller	Chris Lewis	19.55 (5 mins)
c	Online League Controller	Charles Higgle	20.00 (5 mins)
d	County Individual	Nick Rutter	20.05 (4 mins)
e	Minor County Individual	Dan Hilditch-Love	20.09 (4 mins)
f	Cox & Minor Trophies	Dan Hilditch-Love	20.13 (4 mins)
g	Summer Quickplay	Toby Neal	20.17 (1 min)
h	Congress Organiser	Phil Love & Chris Lewis	20.18 (4 mins)
i	Head of Junior Ches	Chris Lewis	20.22 (10 mins)
j	Head of Women's Chess	Kate Walker & Paula Sharp	20.32 (3 mins)
k	4NCL Team	Charles Higgle	20.35 (3 mins)
l	4NCL Online Team	Charles Higgle	20.38 (3 mins)
m	County Captain	Charles Higgle	20.41 (1 min)
n	MCCU Delegates	Glyn Pugh & Roger Brown	20.42 (1 min)
o	Best Game Prize	Toby Neal	20.43 (1 min)
p	Live Boards Controller	Phil Love	20.44 (1 min)
q	Treasurer (see appendix a)	Chris Lewis	20.45 (5 mins)
r	Auditor	Richard Thompson	20.50 (1 min)
s	Safeguarding Officer	Steve Szwajkun	20.51 (1 min)
t	Special Needs & Inclusion	Paul Billington (Acting)	20.52 (5 mins)
u	Publicity Officer	Peter Kitchen	20.57 (3 mins)
v	Rating Officer	Nick Rutter	21.00 (3 mins)
w	Website Editor	Nick Holmes	21.03 (3 mins)
x	ECF Delegate	Chris Lewis (Acting)	21.06 (3 mins)

5. Nomination of new officers

21.09 (6 mins)

The following roles are currently vacant:

- Rapidplay Tournament Organiser
- Head of Senior Chess
- Head of Amateur Chess
- ChessFest Committee
- Outreach Committee

Break

21.15 (5 mins)

6. Safeguarding – Matthew Clark (Safeguarding Lead) & Steve Sz wajkun (Safeguarding Officer)

21.20 (5 mins)

Brief summary of the recently published new safeguarding guidance for all clubs

7. Proposals

A) Rewritten Rapidplay Rules

21.25 (10 mins)

The rapidplay rules were written in short form a long time ago. The rules refer to applying all rules of the Standard League with exceptions. The league rules have since become more complex including the introduction of rules covering junior teams and the blue badge rules, neither of which apply to rapidplay. The rules have hence been re-written as a standalone document (see **appendix b**). There should be very minimal practical differences to the rules as they currently exist but separate rules should provide for more clarity and prevent future misinterpretations.

- proposed by Christopher Lewis

B) Reduction of all teams to 4 boards

21.35 (20 mins)

Proposer Nathanael Paul

a) From the 2024/5 Shropshire chess league season, all classical OTB teams are reduced to four boards.

b) From the 2024/5 Shropshire chess league season, division 2 teams are reduced to four boards resulting in divisions 2&3 having four board teams with division 1 remaining with five player teams.

Proposer's Argument.

I propose that from the 2024/5 Shropshire chess league season all classical OTB teams are reduced to four boards in order to alleviate pressure on clubs & club captains due to the following reasons:

1. Finding a fifth player for matches can at times be very difficult especially for the smaller league clubs. Our league currently has a few small clubs so helping support them is vital. Having four player teams will also reduce the risk of defaulting matches.
2. Reducing to four boards will help with transport for matches because more teams will be able to travel together in one car. This feels particularly pertinent in our current league climate due to the fact there are a few junior teams. That is great for the league but does mean more travelling for our adult teams so being able to have four player teams will help clubs and their captains significantly with transport.
3. An argument against this motion is, reducing teams to four players shows a decline in our league. I strongly disagree because reducing teams to four players will give clubs the opportunity to field more teams. More teams means a stronger and more competitive league with more scope for growth. Having more teams will also give more opportunities for club captains to give players, especially lower rated players like juniors, match experience in higher divisions.
4. Reducing teams to four players will not lead to more drawn matches. There is no basis to this assertion especially as we have seen over the years clear match wins in both the Cox and Minor Knockout trophies where teams have only four boards.
5. Some may argue division 1 should remain five boards because that is how it has always been, it is a tradition. Well all I will say to that is, would you rather see clubs continue to struggle just to keep a tradition, or would you want to change for the better by reducing to four players in order to help clubs, and the league, flourish?
6. I have included option b) within this proposal as an extra option in case the majority strongly believe division 1 should remain with five player teams. My argument against proposal b) is the fact that all clubs would have to find an extra player for their promoted division 2 teams. This could create great difficulty for clubs especially for the smaller clubs who would struggle to field five players leading them to struggle to compete in division 1. We want to help clubs, not make it difficult for the smaller clubs in favour of our larger clubs. However, if the mood of the meeting is to accept proposal b) then at least clubs can be helped due to the fact two divisions will only need four player teams.

C Darwinian Knights Club applies to join the Shropshire League.

The new Darwinian Knights Chess Club, based at Unison Club Shrewsbury, is applying to compete in the Shropshire League.

- proposed by Dennis Bonner

D New Rule for the Shropshire Online League.

Only players who have played for the club in the over-the-board league during the current or previous season are eligible to play for that club in the online league.

- proposed by Richard Thompson

E New Rule for Shropshire Over the Board Competitions.

A nominated player MUST play on board 1”

I have for a number of seasons had concerns regarding the inclusion of substitute players – at times very strong players have come in to ‘B’ or ‘C’ teams to play on board 1, which I believe to be totally unfair on opposing teams.

This unfairness could be very easily resolved with the following new rule:-

- “A nominated player MUST play on board 1”

Obviously, the rest of the team then follows in rating order, so any shortfall in a team can ONLY make use of players rated within the extremes of the normally used players within that team. I do hope that everyone can see this to be a logical step forward to ensuring fairness throughout the Shropshire League.

Proposed by Gary White.

8. Re-election of Current Officers

9. AOB.

Meeting closes at 22.30

Appendix A

SHROPSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

Income & Expenditure

	2024	2023
Income	£	£
Club League Fees	£410.00	£306.00
Individual Championship Entries	£320.00	£310.00
4NCL Income + Prizes	£258.35	£324.00
Junior Chess	£770.80	£851.00
Junior Chess Tournaments	£2,955.10	£2,331.00
Shropshire Congress	£5,238.50	£4,785.00
Bank Interest	£35.08	£14.52
Donations/ECF Award	£350.00	£109.60
Live Board Hire	£240.00	£0.00
TOTAL INCOME	£10,577.83	£9,031.12
Expenditure		
MCCU Affiliation Fees	(£14.00)	£0.00
Individual Prizes + Costs	£279.00	£232.00
Trophies - Engraving	£63.00	£24.00
4NCL	£285.00	£332.00
Junior Chess	£664.00	£554.16
Junior Chess Tournaments	£2,190.77	£1,979.25
Primary School Championships	£235.52	£0.00
Shropshire Congress	£4,828.08	£4,339.66
Website Fees	£178.78	£164.39
Donated/Subsidised Equipment	£440.74	£724.94
Insurance	£201.20	£0.00
Other Expenditure	£368.24	£0.00
Corporation Tax	£23.94	£138.51
Depreciation	£129.58	£86.97
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£9,873.85	£8,575.88
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	£703.98	£455.24

Christopher Lewis, Treasurer

Balance Sheet

	2024	2023
Fixed Assets	£	£
Trophies, chess sets, clocks	£400.90	£173.94
Current Assets		
Stock	£1,454.45	£1,369.94
Debtors	£113.17	£211.82
Prepayments	£877.65	£958.58
Deposit Account	£3,803.09	£2,275.62
Current Account	£331.92	£1,313.92
	<u>£6,580.28</u>	<u>£6,129.88</u>
Creditors: falling due within 1 year		
Accruals and creditors	(£428.00)	(£504.62)
Deferred Income	(£50.00)	£0.00
	<u>£6,102.28</u>	<u>£5,625.26</u>
Net current assets	£6,102.28	£5,625.26
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	£6,503.18	£5,799.20
Reserves		
General Account		
<i>Balance B/F</i>	£5,799.20	£5,343.96
<i>Surplus / (Deficit) for the year</i>	£703.98	£455.24
TOTAL RESERVES	£6,503.18	£5,799.20

Audited and found correct
Richard Thompson, Auditor

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31/05/24**Debtors**

Outstanding 4NCL OTB Subs	£91.74
Interest	£12.43
ECF Game Fee - Charged Twice	£9.00
	<u>£113.17</u>

Prepayments

Domain Renewal	£24.20
Website Hosting Fee	£5.60
Megafinal Venue - Charlton School (+other costs)	£847.85
	<u>£877.65</u>

Creditors

Shropshire Individual Prizes	(£100.00)
Shropshire Minor Individual Prizes	(£155.00)
Shropshire Individual Engraving	(£18.00)
Shropshire Minor Individual Engraving	(£10.00)
4NCL Wildcard Fee	(£5.00)
Other Trophy Engravings	(£60.00)
Junior Congress ECF Game Fees	(£10.00)
Newport Junior Chess Club Subs	(£14.00)
4NCL Costs	(£56.00)
	<u>(£428.00)</u>

Deferred Income

Megafinal Entries	(£50.00)
	<u>(£50.00)</u>

Stock

Equipment to donate/subsidise	£796.44
Refreshments	£29.68
Junior Medals/Trophies/Prizes	£503.32
Scoresheets	£77.88
Coloured Paper	£47.13
	<u>£1,454.45</u>

Notes to the Accounts
Year ended 31/05/23**Debtors**

Individual Entries	£10.00
Interest	£4.82
Sale of Discounted Equipment - Shrewsbury College	£197.00
	<u>£211.82</u>

Prepayments

Domain Renewal	£39.19
Website Hosting Fee	£169.39
Megafinal Venue - Charlton School	£750.00
	<u>£958.58</u>

Creditors

Shropshire Individual Prizes	(£100.00)
Shropshire Minor Individual Prizes	(£155.00)
Shropshire Individual Engraving	(£12.00)
Shropshire Minor Individual Engraving	(£10.00)
4NCL Fines - OTB Defaults 22/23	(£40.00)
Other Trophy Engravings	(£60.00)
MCCU Affiliation Fees (2022/23)	(£14.00)
Corporation Tax 22/23	(£113.62)
	<u>(£504.62)</u>

Deferred Income

	<u>£0.00</u>
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Stock

Equipment to donate/subsidise	£1,145.68
Refreshments	£29.68
Junior Medals/Trophies/Prizes	£194.58
	<u>£1,369.94</u>

Fixed Assets

	Clocks	Sets	DGT Boards	Trophies	Junior Chess	ICT Equip	Total
Cost							
At 1 June 2023	£1,254.61	£645.00	£1,775.20	£631.61	£126.71	£67.65	£4,500.78
Additions	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£119.00	£37.65	£199.89	£356.54
Disposals	(£35.00)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	(£35.00)
At 31 May 2024	£1,219.61	£645.00	£1,775.20	£750.61	£164.36	£267.54	£4,822.32
Depreciation							
At 1 June 2023	£1,254.61	£645.00	£1,775.20	£592.82	£45.68	£13.53	£4,326.84
Charged in Year	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£43.20	£32.87	£53.51	£129.58
Disposals	(£35.00)	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	(£35.00)
At 31 May 2024	£1,219.61	£645.00	£1,775.20	£636.02	£78.55	£67.04	£4,421.42
Net Book Value							
At 1 June 2023	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£38.79</u>	<u>£81.03</u>	<u>£54.12</u>	<u>£173.94</u>
At 31 May 2024	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£0.00</u>	<u>£114.59</u>	<u>£85.81</u>	<u>£200.50</u>	<u>£400.90</u>

Statement of Cashflows
Year ended 31/05/24

Opening Balance 01/06/23	£3,589.54
<i>Income</i>	
Club League Fees	£536.00
Individual Championship Entries	£330.00
4NCL Income + Prizes	£222.61
Junior Chess	£784.80
Junior Tournament Income	£2,923.02
Shropshire Congress	£5,187.20
Bank Interest	£27.47
Donations/ECF Award	£350.00
Live Board Hire	£240.00
Sale of Equipment to schools/community groups	£329.50
Total Income	£10,930.60
<i>Expenditure</i>	
ECF Game Fees	£126.00
MCCU Affiliation Fees	£0.00
Individual Prizes + Costs	£273.00
Trophies - Engraving	£63.00
4NCL	£320.00
Junior Chess	£909.51
Junior Tournaments	£2,529.61
Primary School Championships	£356.30
Purchase of Equipment for schools/community groups	£0.00
Shropshire Congress	£4,829.30
Website Fees	£0.00
Other Expenditure	£701.87
Capital Purchases	£276.54
Corporation Tax	£0.00
Total Expenditure	£10,385.13
Cash Movement in year	£545.47
Closing Balance 31/05/23	£4,135.01

Statement of Cashflows
Year ended 31/05/23

Opening Balance 01/06/22	£5,115.95
<i>Income</i>	
Club League Fees	£306.00
Individual Championship Entries	£270.00
4NCL Income + Prizes	£333.00
Junior Chess	£866.00
Junior Tournament Income	£2,247.77
Shropshire Congress	£4,709.03
Bank Interest	£10.06
Donations	£109.60
Live Board Hire	£0.00
Sale of Equipment to schools/community groups	£170.00
Total Income	£9,021.46
<i>Expenditure</i>	
ECF Game Fees	£0.00
MCCU Affiliation Fees	£28.00
Individual Prizes + Costs	£270.00
Trophies - Engraving	£24.00
4NCL	£370.00
Junior Chess	£619.29
Junior Tournaments	£2,290.49
Primary School Championships	£0.00
Purchase of Equipment for schools/community groups	£2,237.62
Shropshire Congress	£4,233.35
Website Fees	£357.58
Other Expenditure	£0.00
Capital Purchases	£92.65
Corporation Tax	£24.89
Total Expenditure	£10,547.87
Cash Movement in year	(£1,526.41)
Closing Balance 31/05/23	£3,589.54

Appendix B

SHROPSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION: RAPIDPLAY LEAGUE RULES

PART ONE

This competition shall be governed in accordance with the competition rules of the Shropshire Chess Association – available [here](#).

PART TWO

GENERAL

1. All games shall be played according to the FIDE laws of chess as published in ' [The Official Laws of Chess](#)' updated by FIDE on 1 January 2023 with the following exception:

a) A player may leave their mobile phone turned on and won't be penalised if it makes a noise if they have good reason (including medical conditions) and their opponent is informed of this reason at the start of play.

2. No player shall act as or exercise the powers of an arbiter. Any player may stop their clock to clarify a Shropshire league rule or a FIDE law of chess with any appropriate person present during the match. Any unresolved disputes arising from the interpretation or application of the laws of chess or the league rules shall be resolved by the League Controller. Captains may appeal against the League Controller's decision by submitting an appeal in writing to the General Secretary within 14 days. The matter shall then be referred to a Rules and Disputes Committee which will be formed of independent members. The League Controller may be invited to attend and to give advice but shall not be able to vote. The Committee's decision shall be final.

DIVISION STRUCTURE

3. There shall be two divisions with no relegation or promotion.

4. Division 1 shall be an open division with no rating restriction.

5. Division 2 shall be rating restricted. Only players rated 1640 or below may play in Division 2. This rating shall be determined by the August rapidplay rating list published at the start of the season. Where a player does not have a rapidplay rating their August standardplay rating shall be used instead.

6. In division 2, if a player rated above 1640 plays a match their board shall be defaulted and the team shall be penalised one match point per each set of fixtures a breach occurs.

7. The League Controller shall have discretion to specify the number of times each team will play each other team in a division and how many teams or matches are played on a match night. If there are too many or too few teams the league controller shall have discretion (after due consultation with all captains) to merge the division or create additional divisions. Every team shall play every other team an equal number of times.

8. The league controller shall publish a fixture list on the Shropshire website at the start of the season. Each team shall be offered to host matches at their venue at least once a season. The league controller shall use his best endeavours to avoid clashes with the standardplay league fixtures.

UNRATED PLAYERS

9. For the purposes of rule 5, rule 6 and rule 19:

- a) If a player has no rapidplay or standardplay rating but had a rating in the previous ten years, that last known rating shall be used provisionally until a new rating is obtained.
- b) If the player has no rating history or only a provisional "P" rating they shall have maximum flexibility subject to the league controller's approval.
- c) Once an unrated player obtains a "K" or "A" rating then that player shall use either the latest rating list published on the ECF rating database as at the date of the match or, if/when that player obtains an August "K" or "A" rating, the published August rating at the start of the season.

NOMINATED PLAYERS

10. At the start of the season each club shall nominate three players to each team other than their lowest team in the lowest division.

11. Players nominated to a higher team cannot play for a lower team. If this rule is breached:

- a) all games played by that player shall be scored as defaults
- b) the team shall be penalised one match point per set of fixtures a breach occurs.

12. Nominated players shall play for their team at least six games in a season. If this rule is breached the team shall be penalised three match points.

13. If a team is unable to comply with rule 12 on account of unforeseen circumstances (e.g. the player moving away from the area), the League Controller shall have discretion to accept an alternative nominated player for the remainder of the season. The alternative nominated player shall be expected to play the balance of games not played by the original nominated player. Any appearances of the new nominated player for a lower team prior to acceptance by the League Controller shall be disregarded from the point of view of rule breaches specified in rule 11.

14. A member of a club shall only be nominated for one rapidplay team for that club. If a player is a member of more than one club, he/she shall only play for one club within a division.

15. Two different clubs may combine their players to form a squad for the rapidplay league subject to the approval of the league controller. The clubs shall notify the league controller prior to the start of the season.

MATCH DETAILS

16. A team shall consist of four players

17. The 'Away' team shall have White on boards 1 and 3.

18. The default time control shall be all moves in 20 minutes. If both captains agree the time control may be amended to all moves in 10 minutes plus 10 seconds' increment.

19. Players shall be arranged in order of playing strength except that players whose rapidplay rating differs by no more than 75 points shall be regarded as interchangeable for the purposes of this rule. To determine whether two players are interchangeable the captain shall use the latest ECF rapidplay rating list published on the ECF rating database as at the date of the match. Where a player does not have a rapidplay rating their standardplay rating shall be used instead. Where this rule is breached:

- a) the higher rated player playing out of order shall be deemed to have lost by default,
- b) the minimum number of players shall be defaulted in order to achieve an acceptable playing order,
- c) the team shall be penalised one match point.

20. Before the start of each match captains shall exchange lists of players in board order. If a captain knows before start of play that the team will be incomplete, the remaining players shall be declared in board order, and defaults shall take place on the bottom board(s).

21. Matches shall be played on the appointed date unless another date is previously agreed by the League Controller.

22. If a team fails to field at least half the number of boards (they only field 1 player on the night), the team shall be penalised 1 match point for each match defaulted (potentially 3 points in an evening). No warnings will be given.

23. All games shall be submitted for rapidplay rating.

START OF PLAY

24. Matches shall start at 7.30 pm.

25. There is no default time. A player shall be defaulted when they run out of time on their clock. If both players default that board is declared void.

26. Another player may be substituted for an absent player at any time before the first move is made by that team on that board. If such substitution breaches rule 18 (playing order), it shall be subject to the agreement of the opposing captain.

RESULTS

27. Results shall be submitted via the online web scorecard within eight days of the match date. It shall be the responsibility of the host team captain to ensure all results are submitted although anyone may submit a result for their team. If no result is notified within eight days, the League Controller shall issue a warning to the host team. Subsequent breaches in the same season may result in a one match point penalty.

28. Two points shall be awarded for a match win, one point for a drawn match, zero points for a lost match.

29. The highest placed team shall be awarded the division trophy for one year. If at the end of the season two or more teams are tied, the team with the higher number of game points shall be adjudged the higher team. If there is still a tie then the team with the higher head-to-head board count shall be adjudged the higher team. If there is still a tie a play-off match, or matches, shall be organised by the league controller. If the play-off ends in a drawn match, then board count shall be used to decide the winner. If all four games end in draws, then the team with black on board 1 shall be named the winner. To decide colours the two team captains shall conduct a coin toss on the night of the match.

PENALTY DISCRETION

30. In exceptional circumstances the League Controller may waive penalties, providing the club/team writes to the League Controller with a full explanation of the facts.